

REMARKS

Claims 4-13 and 16-17 are currently pending in the application. Claims 4-5, 8-13, 16, and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-3, 14-15, and 18 have been cancelled.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 due to the claims allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 17. Applicants have cancelled claim 18. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 14, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,732,078 (Arango) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,292,480 (May).

As claims 1 and 14 have been cancelled, the rejection is moot with respect to the cancelled claims. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 17 is patentable over the references, as neither of the references discloses or suggests, "generating a reading completion signal when it is detected at the detecting that the amount is zero; and starting the transmission of the data, from the access point that receives the reading completion signal." See currently amended independent claim 17.

Although Arango discloses access points, the access points do not receive a reading completion signal. In fact, Arango is silent on reading completion signals and indicates that data is simply continuously transmitted to other access points, thereby teaching away from the present invention. As May does not add any relevant information to Arango, Applicants respectfully submit that May does not cure the deficiency of Arango. Therefore, claim 17 is patentable over the combination of references. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

On page 5 of the Office Action, claims 2-13, 15-16, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arango in view of May and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0101035 (Boer).

As claims 2-3, 15, and 18 have been cancelled, the rejection is moot with respect to the cancelled claims. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 8, 9, and 16 are patentable over the references, as none of the references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest:

a memory monitoring unit that outputs a completion signal to an access point other than the one access point, when reading of all the data stored

in the storage unit has finished; and completion signal detecting unit that detects a completion signal output from a memory monitoring unit of an access point other than the one access point

, as recited in claim 8, for example.

The Examiner alleged that Boer discloses a WLAN wherein data transmission rates are changed according to the presence or absence of acknowledgment messages (paragraphs 0002-0005). Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has oversimplified the present invention. In particular, although Boer may change data transmission rates, Boer does not provide information regarding a memory monitoring unit that outputs a completion signal to an access point in the manner identified by the claim language of the present invention.

In contrast to the present invention, the data transmission rate adaptation method of Boer simply alters a data transmission rate value of a transmitter. See Boer, lines 14-17 of paragraph [0004]. In Boer, the determination as to whether the rate is changed is based on a number of consecutive acknowledgment messages. See Boer, lines 3-6 of paragraph [0004]. Thus, in Boer, the number of acknowledgement messages indicate that the data transmission rate should be altered.

In contrast, in the present invention, the completion signal indicates that a data read operation from a storage unit has been completed.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 8, 9, and 16 are patentable over the references for at least the above presented reasons. As dependent claims 4-7 and 10-13 depend from respective independent claims, the dependent claims are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

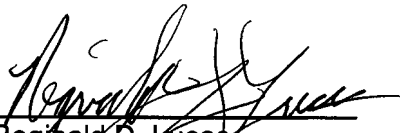
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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Reginald D. Lucas
Registration No. 46,883

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501